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# **Daily Report**

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

FBIS-AFR-90-102  
Friday  
25 May 1990

# Daily Report

## Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-90-102

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25 May 1990

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### ECOWAS Council of Ministers Meeting Opens

AB2305070090 Dakar PANA in English 1650 GMT  
22 May 90

[Text] Banjul 22 May (PANA)—The 25th ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Council of Ministers meeting on Tuesday went into a closed door session in Banjul to adopt a 20-point agenda following opening addresses by its chairman, Burkinafabe minister of finance, Mrs Bintou Sanogoh and the [words indistinct] Memba Jatta.

Addressing the opening session, Jatta said the community's agreements had to be implemented if it was to become stronger and more active. He said the progress toward a common European market by 1992 calls for ECOWAS states to accelerate their process of integration. He added that the good progress being made in the field of telecommunications should be supplemented by even more efforts in the implementation of various ECOWAS protocols.

"I therefore hope that with goodwill and determination we shall put in our best effort to move the community nearer its ultimate goal of building a prosperous integrated and stable West African economy," Jatta said.

The Burkinafabe minister in turn touched on the low rates of economic growth in ECOWAS sub-region and noted that its population growth was much higher.

Low commodity prices, adverse weather conditions and deteriorating terms of trade had also had an adverse effect on the fragile economies of the countries of the sub-region. "Our responsibility is great before our people and history, she said.

Sanogoh said there was a need to move from words to action and make ECOWAS cooperation and regional integration the priorities.

Sanogoh said immediate action should be taken to implement all decisions taken by ECOWAS and to pay all arrears and contributions to the cash-strapped community and its fund. She disclosed that arrears now stand at 17 million units of account, or three times more than the 1990 budget of the organisation's secretariat.

The minister said with the turn of the decade, ECOWAS should start a new phase and should be made into the West African sub-region's instrument for development in a hostile and self-centred international economic environment.

United and committed, she said, members could ensure ECOWAS also becomes an instrument for the integration of the West African sub-region.

The two-day session, scheduled to end Wednesday evening, will be followed by the first meeting of ECOWAS foreign ministers from 25 to 26 May and the summit of ECOWAS heads of state from 28 to 30 May.

### Foreign Ministers Meeting Debated

AB2405105990 Dakar PANA in English 0858 GMT  
24 May 90

[“Special Report” by Swaebou Conateh: “ECOWAS: Council of Ministers vs Foreign Ministers”]

[Text] Banjul, 23 May (PANA)—An issue not on the agenda has loomed its head at the council of Ministers meeting of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] on Wednesday morning in Banjul and it is of such an order that it may take the authority of the heads of state themselves to resolve it, a delegate who prefers to remain anonymous told PANA at the end of the closed door session.

The problem concerns ultimate responsibility for ECOWAS affairs, in other words which group of ministers should be responsible to the heads of state for all ECOWAS affairs.

Hitherto, this has not been an issue at all since having regard to the treaty establishing the organisation, countries decide to which ministry to accord the responsibility at the national level. Most have assigned the responsibility to their Planning Ministries though there are others who have accorded it to either their Finance Ministries or their Trade and Commerce Ministries.

With the changes in Eastern Europe and the approach of Europe 1992, ECOWAS, which has hitherto been seen as an economic groupings for sub-regional cooperation and integration, has begun to see the relevance of polices in its operations.

At the instigation of Burkina Faso, which is the current ECOWAS chairman, a group which is euphemistically referred to as a council of foreign affairs in conference documents has now been constituted and what is worse, in the eyes of this Council of Ministers, it is set to meet in Banjul on 25 to 26 May. This will be well after the meeting of the Council of Ministers set to find Wednesday.

The situation has led some delegates to suggest that there should be a special session of the Council of Ministers on 27 May to adopt the report of the foreign ministers meeting.

For ECOWAS Council of Ministers, there is nothing strange in this, for as the group responsible by treaty to the heads of state and government in the sub-region, they have already been adopting reports by interior and information ministers and presenting them to the summit of the organisation.

The difference this time is that politics does not constitute an aspect of the treaty establishing ECOWAS even though it may be implicit therein. That is why some delegates have been pointing to the importance of political will for the success of the sub-regional organisation and seeing some relevance of the foreign ministers grouping to the advancement of this goal.

The delegate who briefed PANA on the meeting said that the Council of Ministers as a whole welcomed the emphasis laid by the Burkinabe chairman of the council at Wednesday morning's session on the need to have one and not two councils of ministers for ECOWAS in spite of the coming into being of the foreign ministers groupings.

In this, they were strongly backed by Togo and Nigeria, among the initiators of the ECOWAS idea. Several other delegations took a great deal of time of the morning session to lend their voice to this point of view.

As things stand now, it is up to the secretariat to find some way of implementing the decision of council. What is clear at the moment is that with a number of foreign ministers from ECOWAS states already in Banjul or on their way here, Thursday's scheduled meeting of the ministers cannot be avoided.

It may be that a special session of the Council of Ministers will hold on Saturday to adopt the report of the foreign ministers and have it presented to the summit through the Council of Ministers. Failing this the only reasonable thing to expect is a delay in the adoption and presentation of the foreign ministers report until the next meeting of the Council of Ministers and the next summit. The whole process can take as long as one year.

As there are some rather urgent political issues in the sub-region, ranging from differences between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Mauritania, Liberia and

Niger's internal political developments arising from rebel incursions from neighboring states, that scenario may turn out to be an unviable road to follow.

#### **OAU Maritime Group Warned of European Policies**

*AB2405185090 Lagos Domestic Service in English  
0600 GMT 24 May 90*

[Text] African countries have been told to carefully examine their relationships with Europe, following the adoption of new policies by the European Economic Community. The minister of transport, retired General Alani Akinrinade, gave the advice in Abuja in an address to the Organization of African Unity meeting of experts on maritime transport.

The minister warned that the new policies of the member-countries of the EEC was to sustain their perpetual dominance of maritime services in the African trade. Lieutenant General Akinrinade urged participants in the meeting to examine recommendations on short- and long-term measures, to ensure the survival of the African shipping trade.

The current series of meetings on maritime transport are designed to fashion out a common African position on the code of conduct for liner conferences and other economic legislations enacted by the developed countries which are considered inimical to the continent's interest.

## Gabon

### Strike Begins; Oil Executives Taken Hostage

AB2405131090 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT  
24 May 90

[By Pierre Briand]

[Excerpt] Libreville, May 24 (AFP)—A general strike gripped Gabon Thursday as France boosted its military garrison and anti-government demonstrators took three Shell oil executives hostage in the southern city of Port Gentil. The situation was tense in Port Gentil, where the streets were deserted after Gabonese Army troops were called in late Wednesday following a day of rioting sparked off by the mysterious death of an opposition leader.

Port Gentil, a small town of 30,000 people, was the home town of opposition leader Joseph Rendjambe, who was found dead in a hotel room here Tuesday night. Relatives of the opposition leader briefly kidnapped a French diplomat in Port Gentil on Wednesday.

On Thursday, demonstrators demanding the withdrawal of security forces from Port Gentil seized three managers from the Shell oil company, the wife of one of the men said. Those held were a Gabonese, Anatole Bouroubou, the company secretary of Shell-Gabon, the British personnel manager Peter Robertson and Frenchman Roland Toulouse, a public relations manager. They were being held in the company offices in Port Gentil. The woman, who was contacted by telephone, did not know if those holding the three were armed.

Demonstrators who took over the lagoon town overnight and called for the general strike alleged that President Omar Bongo was involved in the death of Mr. Rendjambe, a businessman in his 50s who led the relatively moderate Progress Party.

French sources said Rendjambe family members seized France's consul-general in Port Gentil, Jean Duffau, on Wednesday in a bid to put pressure on Paris to persuade Mr. Bongo to resign.

Port Gentil, traditionally working-class and critical of government, can be reached only by sea or air. Most of its European population was said to have taken refuge on oil company premises guarded by private militia. The rioters reportedly opened the prison Wednesday night and there were sightings of people in the streets with hunting rifles. Trucks had apparently been parked on the airport runway to prevent the arrival of reinforcements.

France's 600-strong garrison, based in Gabon under a defence agreement dating back to its independence in 1960, was on a state of alert, reliable sources said, but there were no soldiers in Port Gentil.

The French Defence Ministry in Paris said 200 more troops were reinforcing the garrison, in agreement with the Libreville authorities, to protect French citizens in

case of threats. The fresh forces are from Foreign Legion infantry and paratroop regiments. French diplomats said Gabon had made no request for military or other help in restoring order, but such a request would be considered. In January, France met an urgent request for security force equipment during a first bout of violence here, and in March provided a transport plane to fly gendarmes to Port Gentil to tackle rioting there. [passage omitted]

### Cabinet Meets; Troops in Port Gentil

AB2405133890 Dakar PANA in French 1138 GMT  
24 Mar 90

[Text] Libreville, 24 May (AGP-GAB/PANA)—Elite elements of the Presidential Guard took up positions this morning around the Presidency of the Republic where the Gabonese head of state, Mr. Omar Bongo, is presiding over a Cabinet meeting enlarged to include the security forces, it has been observed. They are armed with light machine guns and are wearing ammunition belts on their harnesses. Armored vehicles have taken up positions at various strategic points in the city including the Gabonese radio and television station.

This military deployment is aimed above all at countering any possible outbursts, following the incidents that ensued after the death, under still undetermined circumstances, of Mr. Joseph Rendjambe. Rendjambe was a member of the Gabonese opposition, the general secretary of the Gabonese Progress Party of Bar Association President Agondjo Okawe, to whom he was also a first cousin, just like Mr. Jean Ping, member of the transition government.

The nationwide strike action called by the opposition for today seems to have made no headway, as the Gabonese people are going about their normal activities, despite yesterday's very heavy tension. It is noted that which is gradually abating today, it is noted. [sentence as received]

Asked about the eventual disembarkation of French troops in Gabon or of the nearly 500 troops already stationed there in line with the defense agreements between the two countries, and especially the role of these elements in the freeing of the French consul in Port Gentil, Mr. Rendjambe's home region, the French ambassador gave no explanation. Western media have been referring to a 200-man elite regiment of the French Army being put on alert because of the situation in Gabon.

The deployment of the Presidential Guard in the administrative center and in the environs of the palace have created bottlenecks and traffic jams. Nevertheless, workers left their work places today at the end of the morning session earlier than usual, fearing a resurgence of demonstrations, a fear that is tangible in the city. In Port Gentil, meanwhile, a group of Gabonese paratroopers landed in the morning. The airport there remains closed, as well as the harbor, following the damage that they sustained.

**Seven More Frenchmen Taken Hostage**

AB2405162490 Paris AFP in French 1530 GMT  
24 May 90

[Text] Libreville, 24 May (AFP)—Seven French nationals working for the French oil company, ELF, were captured early this afternoon in Port Gentil (southern Gabon) by demonstrators. These individuals are being held along with three others who were captured earlier by the demonstrators, it was learned from a witness, who was interviewed by telephone from Libreville this afternoon.

These people are working for the French oil company, ELF. They have been locked up with the first three, a Gabonese, a Briton, and a Frenchman, who work for Shell-Gabon and have been held since mid morning, the same sources explain.

The demonstrators, who have been holding these 10 ELF and Shell employees, are demanding the withdrawal of the law enforcement forces from Port Gentil. They are holding these hostages to protect themselves from any attack by the law enforcement forces, it was learned from another source, interviewed by telephone in Port Gentil.

This town with 30,000 inhabitants, isolated by a lagoon, and nearly inaccessible by road, is the country's economic capital. Oil companies operating in Gabon are established there. The town has been in the hands of the demonstrators since yesterday morning. The demonstrators at first wanted to protest the death, which they think mysterious, of an opposition leader from Port Gentil, but little by little, they took over the town. Several public buildings were set on fire yesterday evening, as well as the French Consulate. Finally, the airport was blocked to prevent the arrival of reinforcements for the law enforcement forces.

**French Military System Set Up**

AB2405174890 Paris AFP in French 1708 GMT  
24 May 90

[Text] Paris, 24 May (AFP)—An important French military system has been set up in Port Gentil, Gabon's economic capital, where the situation is "very serious," but no French casualties have been reported, it was learned from the Quai d'Orsay (French Foreign Ministry) this evening. The objective of this military system is to protect French nationals. According to well-informed French sources, 10 people, including eight French nationals, were still in the hands of demonstrators in Port Gentil. It was learned from the same sources that contact has been made with them. They are tired, but in good health. Everything is being done to secure their release, these sources said.

The French Foreign Ministry has established a special telephone line to keep in touch with the families of French nationals residing in Gabon.

**French Officer Negotiates Release**

AB2405200090 Paris AFP in English 1950 GMT  
24 May 90

[Text] Libreville, May 24 (AFP)—The commander of French troops sent to Port Gentil on Thursday negotiated the release of 10 oil company workers, including nine foreigners, taken hostage earlier by anti-government protesters, one of the hostages said.

Roland Toulouse, a French public relations executive for Shell-Gabon, said he acted as mediator between his captors and a colonel leading some 100 French soldiers who disembarked in the West African town, which was rocked by protests after the mysterious death of a Gabonese opposition leader.

The hostages included two other shell employees, Gabonese secretary-general Anatole Bouroubou and British personnel manager Peter Robertson, together with seven French nationals working for ELF-Gabon. All were released unharmed.

Mr. Toulouse added that angry demonstrators occupying oil company premises wanted to burn them down. He commended local officials of the Gabonese Progress Party (PGP) for keeping the mob under control. "Without them, we wouldn't be here," he said, speaking on the telephone.

Port Gentil, an oil town of some 30,000 people accessible only by sea and by air, and the Gabonese capital Libreville have been swept by two days of unrest since the announcement Wednesday that PGP Secretary-General Joseph Rendjambe had been found dead in a Libreville hotel room overnight Tuesday.

Some protestors alleged that Gabonese President Omar Bongo was behind the alleged murder of the opposition leader, whose body bore no trace of blows but had the mark of a needle puncture in the abdomen, according to police.

Reliable sources said that a contingent of French troops from the 6th Marine Infantry Battalion arrived in Port Gentil on Thursday.

Mr. Toulouse said the hostage-takers had wanted to negotiate with the French soldier as to where the troops would be stationed. As soon as representatives of the demonstrators realized that the French forces were concerned only to protect French nationals and other Europeans, they let the hostages free, he said.

The troops had taken up positions in an isolated part of the town and were not responding to continuing unrest elsewhere in Port Gentil, he said.

Mr. Bongo earlier this month swore in a transition government to end more than two decades of single-party rule in Gabon by preparing for elections in September. The decision was the outcome of a national conference held in April after months of unrest.

### Chad

#### Communiqué on Release of 10 Libyans Cited

AB2405193690 London BBC World Service in English  
1615 GMT 24 May 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It seems that President Hissein Habre's government in Chad is now adopting a more conciliatory approach towards Libya. After an upsurge of fighting along Chad's eastern border with Sudan, a big incursion by Chad's troops into Sudan's Western Darfur Region and much saber-rattling by Hissein Habre, the talk is now of negotiations rather than fighting, and Chad has announced the release of 10 Libyans captured during the recent battles. From Ndjemena, Mahamat Adamou Adamat telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The releases were announced to foreign diplomats in Chad through a communiqué from the Foreign Ministry. In it the foreign minister said that the 10 prisoners were members of a Libyan supply convoy concerned with bringing provisions to forces in the Darfur area. The names of the 10 prisoners were not made public and the government statement said that the men would be handed over to a friendly country which would make the necessary arrangements for their repatriation to Libya. The friendly country was not named.

Elsewhere President Hissein Habre reaffirmed the necessity for Chad to pursue a dialogue with Libya in order to find a peaceful solution to their conflict. The president said this at the council of ministers which had also been opened to the members of the ruling UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] party.

The president said that he recognized that at the moment there was peace in Darfur because the enemy had been defeated but he stressed that Chad would spare no effort to defend its position at the OAU. [end recording]

### Zaire

#### Further Reportage, Reaction to Student Violence

##### Belgian Foreign Minister Comments

LD2405191990 Brussels Domestic Service in French  
1600 GMT 24 May 90

[Excerpts] First official reaction in Brussels following the revelations on the Lubumbashi massacre. [Foreign Minister] Mark Eyskens expressed his worries and his disapproval to the Zairian ambassador to Brussels. The foreign minister met Mr. Kimbulu yesterday afternoon. He had just received the first part of the report of the Belgian ambassador to Kinshasa, Mr. (Hadant). Our ambassador went on a fact-finding mission to the capital of Shaba. [passage omitted] But let's go back to the violence in Shaba. We managed to contact the foreign

minister by phone this afternoon. The first question: What exactly happened on the Lubumbashi campus? Here is Mark Eyskens:

[Begin recording] [Eyskens] On the basis of various but converging reports, the Belgian diplomats confirm that there were serious incidents resulting in victims, with deaths.

[Unidentified announcer] Could you give me a figure?

[Eyskens] Figures are not definite. Some say 10, some others 20. There are reports which mention 50; there is even a report which says there were 100 deaths. I received the Zairian ambassador Mr. Kimbulu yesterday afternoon. He says there was one death. So there is a big difference between the figures reported.

[Announcer] This takes us to the issue of responsibility in this drama. Do you think the responsibility lies at the government level or do you think President Mobutu himself is responsible? The people responsible must be higher up in position, if one looks particularly at the means used.

[Eyskens] Obviously. There was first a conflict of an ethnic character but there was also the intervention by the forces of order.

[Announcer] So the responsibility lies at the government level?

[Eyskens] There are also forces of order which are under the orders of the provincial authorities. Well, I don't want to say anything about this. First I would like to see it discussed within the Belgian Government. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Shaba Governor on Lubumbashi Events

AB2405100390 Paris AFP in English 2335 GMT  
23 May 90

[Text] Kinshasa, May 23 (AFP)—The governor of Zaire's Shaba Province Wednesday denied "inaccurate reports of events in Lubumbashi", while a Zairian opposition party said that 150 students at the university there had been massacred by security forces overnight on May 11. The governor, Koyagalo Ngababe Te Gerengbo, in a detailed statement said that there had been clashes between students in favor of and against a march in solidarity with students in the capital who had been expelled for violence against members of parliament. The number of victims was 14 wounded, "ten slightly and four seriously". The governor said the seriously injured were rushed to hospital, where one of them died on Saturday.

In the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, however, an unrecognized Zairian opposition party, the Congolese Workers' Party (POK), claimed Wednesday that 150 students were massacred by special intervention units formed by President Mobutu Sese Seko. The POK also

said, without citing its sources, that several other students had recently been arrested in Kinshasa and were held in the Binza and Makala jails. It added that two of them had been found dead in the grounds of Binza prison. The POK statement, signed by its information chief, Nansi Mwanabi, followed a report in the Belgian LE SOIR daily Tuesday, which quoted informed sources as saying that about 50 students had been killed.

Last weekend, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens expressed "concern" at reports of the campus incidents and expressed "hopes" that the new Zairian Government would give "priority attention" to human rights. Marshal Mobutu on April 24 announced reforms opening the way to a multiparty system. Lubumbashi, 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) southeast of the capital, is the capital of Shaba, which tried to secede as would-be independent Katanga after independence was granted to the former Belgian Congo in 1960. Kinshasa is just across the Zaire river from Brazzaville. The Zairian authorities have expressed "surprise and indignation" at reports of the killings.

In Brussels Wednesday, demonstrators ransacked the offices of the official Zairian AZAP news agency, saying they wanted details of the incidents in Shaba. They scattered paper and smashed furniture, throwing some of it out of the window, RTL-TVI television reported. television reported. Nobody was hurt.

#### \* Cooperation Accord Signed; Turmoil Reported

90AF0070A Brussels LE SOIR  
in French 27 Mar 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by special correspondent Colette Braeckman]

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 March—Tired but relaxed, and visibly happy to be back in the African environment, Mark Eyskens joined Andre Geens, his colleague in the Ministry of Cooperation, for a visit to Zaire as brief as it is important. Fourteen years to the day after the signing of the earlier cooperation agreement, the new agreement signed on Tuesday establishes new foundations which will make it possible to rebuild more balanced relations between Zaire and Belgium. After idling for a year and a half, our aid program can finally resume cruising speed, applying new formulas, including that of the Bilateral Cooperation Fund. But our presence in Zaire will also henceforth fall within a fully developing political context.

A former student of Mr Eyskens Sr, Nguza Karl I Bond, the minister of foreign affairs in Zaire, welcomed his teacher's son warmly. He emphasized the fact that despite the crisis, firm and specific bonds have been maintained between the two countries. Zaire has always been able to rely on the support of Belgium in its sometimes tense relations with the international institutions, and Kinshasa, for its part, intervened with the authorities in Pretoria in an effort to obtain the release of Helene Pastoors.

in this connection, Karl I Bond gave his Belgian colleague a current report on the subject of the very active Zairian diplomatic efforts. The American official James Baker was in Kinshasa on Saturday, where he met with the chief of state, the designated mediator in the Angolan crisis, as well as UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi. Mr Nguza, who had met with Mr de Klerk, assured Mr Eyskens repeatedly that he was convinced of the good faith of the South African president. "He is an interlocutor one can take seriously," he said. With no pretense of embarrassment, the Zairians are now asserting their desire for rapprochement with South Africa in both the political and economic sectors. There was also talk about Eastern Europe, with a concern, on the one side, and a promise, on the other, to work toward a stronger Europe which will not forget the African continent.

The next subject of discussion was the philosophy of the new cooperation agreements, which Mr Geens, for his part, studied with his Zairian counterpart, Mr Niwa, who is the son of Marshal Mobutu.

It should be noted that there is no longer any talk of aid for development, but rather of cooperation. And the emphasis is being placed on mutual respect for the sovereignty and dignity of each partner and the mutual commitment to human rights.

The Belgians in Kinshasa make no secret of their satisfaction with the fact that an original agreement on the settlement of the Zairian debt has been achieved. And the sole remaining subject of discussion is the Bilateral Cooperation Fund. The Belgians and the Zairians, including all ethnic origins, have adopted the Flemish initials BOF [Bilateral Ontwillikeling Fund], and everyone is stressing the fact that the use of this fund should set an example of joint management. In fact, it represents the counterpart in zaires on interest owed by Kinshasa on two-thirds of its commercial debt to Belgium. Let us recall that Belgium has canceled 5 billion of the public debt, as well as one-third of the commercial debt, i.e., 5.75 billion Belgian francs, and has rescheduled the balance of the latter in the amount of 11.54 billion.

In 1989 and 1990, the interest on this sum, which is to be allocated for development projects approved by both parties, will come to 800 million Belgian francs. Thus these are substantial amounts of money, and management of them will make it possible to test the real goodwill of the two partners.

#### Stormy Consultations

Even if time was short, Zaire made a point of offering the two Belgian ministers the best possible indication of the normalization of relations between the two countries. They had an opportunity to meet with President Mobutu in Mbuji Mai. He is now in the Kasai, where he is talking with his fellow citizens just prior to ending his tour of the Shaba.

It must be said that the critical relations with Belgium which in the past made headlines in the local press are no longer today a main concern either in the newspapers or in people's minds. The fact is that popular consultation takes strange turns. Some 3,000 representatives of the people of Kinshasa, meeting on Saturday on the Nsele estate, asked the chief of state some rather embarrassing questions. The concentration of powers, the political, administrative, and financial confusion between the party and the state were brought up, and a multiparty system was demanded. Some of the bolder speakers, as had occurred earlier in the provinces, even called for the resignation of the chief of state, while others politely suggested to him that he place himself above the level of the party or parties and cease to monopolize all authority.

This free expression by the people, which goes much farther and is much more radical than had been expected, is the subject of all of the conversations in Zaire, and the president himself has urged the people to remain calm. Speaking on the radio, he also referred to a tract which is being circulated secretly in simple photocopies, which each person is supposed to pass on to four others. The tract urges the people to demonstrate in the streets this coming 15 April, Easter Sunday, which is the date on which the popular consultation ends. On hold for a long time, politics—including speculation, rumors, and maneuvering—has reclaimed all of its rights in Zaire.

The appearance, uncensored, of an issue of the magazine PRESENCE, the heir to PRESENCE CONGOLAISE, is awaited. In its editorial, Mr Eyskens will be asked to state whether, in addition to cooperation, he has also come to offer democracy.

#### Incidents

On Monday morning, a number of members of the National Documentation Agency (AND—the Zairian security force) clashed with members of the RTBF and RTL television crews who accompanied Messrs Eyskens and Geens. The reporters, cameramen, and sound personnel were taken to a police station for questioning which lasted almost a quarter of an hour. A cameraman from the RTBF was treated roughly by "zealous" AND agents who were trying to confiscate some of his film.

In fact, the Zairian security force questioned the validity of the badges worn by the members of the television crews, claiming that they were supposed to have in their possession "work permits" issued by Zairian officials authorizing them to film ordinary street scenes. In the presence of a representative of the embassy and the spokesman for Mr Geens, they were treated to a lecture in which the director of the AND in Kinshasa provided them with some interesting facts about the local authorities' concept of freedom of the press.

## Ethiopia

### President Mengistu Greets New Yemeni Leadership

EA2305131590 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Comrade President Mengistu Haile Mariam has said that it was with great pleasure and satisfaction that he received the news of steps taken by the two sisterly countries, the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen toward unification.

The comrade president's sentiments were contained in a message sent today to the YAR president, General 'Abdallah Salih, saying that this was a far-sighted move originating in wise leadership, and it was definitely a victory for the fraternal peoples of Yemen and a national victory for the country.

The election of General 'Abdallah Salih as president and 'Ali Salim al-Bid as vice president is a manifestation of their great leadership, and this is a sign of the confidence the Yemeni people have in them as strong leaders of the country, the comrade president pointed out in his message.

In his message, sent on behalf of the people and Government of Ethiopia and on his own behalf, Comrade President Mengistu expressed great pleasure at the election of the two leaders to this high office, and conveyed his warmest greetings to the members of the Yemeni Republic Presidium and through them, to the fraternal people.

### Support From Israel, Canada, U.S. Claimed

EA2405210090 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Comrade Kasa Kebede has said that Israel, Canada, and the United States have an unwavering stand on the preservation of the unity and sovereignty of Ethiopia and that they will give their support toward this end. Comrade Kasa Kebede, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, returned to Addis Ababa today at the end of a working visit to the three countries and the UN headquarters in New York at the head of an Ethiopian delegation.

According to his statement, Comrade Kasa said that the delegation first made a visit to Israel and held discussions with the country's prime minister, foreign and justice ministers, and other government officials on bilateral issues and gave briefings on the current situation in Ethiopia. It was learned that during the discussions, officials at all levels affirmed their stand on the preservation of the unity and sovereignty of Ethiopia.

In Canada the delegation gave more attention to the drought in our country and to development aid. Canada has said it will continue development assistance as

before and will do its utmost to assist in alleviating the drought in the northern part of our country on humanitarian grounds.

During its stay in the United States, the delegation met and held discussions at length with the secretary of state, the National Security Council, members of government institutions, representatives of the American Congress, and senators. During the discussions, most of the misunderstanding that existed has been resolved. Basic agreement was also reached on upgrading relations between Ethiopia and the United States, but further consultations are to be held at another time before a final agreement is reached.

### EPLF Alleges 507 Government Troops Killed

EA2305125190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 22 May 90

[Excerpt] The heroic people's army of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has attacked enemy troops mobilized to attack the Segeyti front. This was a result of the enemy's uncertain attempts on 11, 12, 13, and 19 May 1990. In the attack, our combatants put more than 1,070 enemy soldiers out of action. Among them, 507 soldiers were killed, 565 were wounded, and six others were captured. [passage omitted]

## Kenya

### Moi Rejects Calls for Referendum on KANU Role

EA2305200790 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 May 90

[Excerpts] H.E. [His Excellency] President Daniel arap Moi today said that the ruling party, KANU [Kenya African National Union], will not allow anybody to dictate to it how to conduct its affairs, adding that it was wrong for a certain religious denomination to order for a national referendum to discuss the country's political affairs. He said that KANU comprised members of various religious denominations in the country, whose views were taken in consideration during various party meetings, right from the grassroots up to the national level. The president wondered whether the church, which was demanding for a national referendum, was implying that its members, who are in KANU, were incapable of contributing suggestions to the party.

Stressing that KANU was a democratic political party, President Moi said not even him, who is also the president of the party, could dictate to it what action to take.

President Moi said this when he addressed the nation during a public rally at Baraza Park in Garissa town. The president also criticized leaders who are calling press conferences, and asking for amendment of some clauses of the party constitution, and said that such leaders had not even channelled their opinions through their party branches.

President Moi pointed out that the crux of the current national debate was whether the country should have a strong single party that unified wananchi [citizens], or adopt a multiparty political system. The president said that wananchi throughout the country have already demonstrated their support for KANU and their rejection of the introduction of a multiparty political system in the country, which was being advocated by a few misguided Kenyans and their foreign masters.

On discipline, President Moi said that it was wrong for party members to call for disciplining of others through the media. He said any recommendations for disciplinary measures against an errant party member should start from the grassroot level.

The president commended wananchi for their massive support of the party which, he said, had been demonstrated by the on-going recruitment drive. [passage omitted]

Stressing that peace in this region was essential, President Moi said that he was willing to mediate between the government of President Siad Barre of Somalia and forces opposed to him. [passage omitted]

### Somalia

#### President Siad Congratulates Yemeni President

EA2305155690 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali  
1700 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] The president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, today sent a message of congratulations to the president of the Yemeni Republic, Mr. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on the proclamation of the union of the two Yemens.

Comrade Siad stated in his message that the SDR would continue to work to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between Somalia and Yemen. The president also hoped the Yemeni Republic would fulfill the aspirations of the Yemeni people as well as assume its role in promoting peace and unity in the Arab world.

#### Siad Asks Assembly To Act on Constitution

EA2305154990 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali  
2045 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, Somali Democratic Republic president, today handed over the project of changing the constitution to the People's Assembly after it was approved by the Council of Ministers on 10 May after long debate and analysis.

The president said it was proper to act in a timely manner and for the assembly not to wait for its normal session to debate the constitution. The members of the People's Assembly should be called on immediately to hold an extraordinary session in order to discharge their duty on the project of changing the constitution and then to proceed to other business.

### Uganda

#### Museveni Calls on 'Rebel Remnants' To Surrender

EA2305171490 Kampala Domestic Service in English  
1900 GMT 22 May 90

[Excerpt] President Yoweri Museveni, who is continuing his working trip to northern Uganda, has commended the people of Gulu District for cooperating with the Army to completely eliminate insecurity from the area.

Addressing a rally at Kaunda stadium in Gulu municipality yesterday, Mr. Museveni again appealed to the people to determinedly join hands with the Army to eradicate insecurity so that their region joins other peaceful areas to propel Uganda to further economic development. He said that during the past three years, Uganda's rate of economic growth has been seven percent per annum, one of the highest in Africa, and yet this economic growth has been attained in spite of disturbances in northeastern Uganda.

President Museveni therefore advised the people to continue rendering their unqualified support to the Army to eliminate insecurity caused by desperate rebel remnants. He assured them that they should not have long-term worries because the government has the means to deal with them, adding that the rebel problem has in any case greatly diminished.

He told the people of Gulu District that they should understand that a complete realization of peace is in their own interest because other parts of Uganda which have been peaceful have registered tremendous economic and social development. He advised them not to allow the area to lag behind in terms of development on account of rebel remnants.

President Museveni renewed the NRM [National Resistance Movement] Government call to the rebel remnants to surrender voluntarily in order to benefit from the amnesty and the presidential pardon. He noted that many rebel commanders have been killed and others have fled into exile, adding that this was unfortunate but was due to the fact that the rebels failed to reciprocate to peace overtures extended to them by the government.

On this note, President Museveni strongly warned the opportunists who collaborate with the enemies of Uganda abroad with the intention of retarding national development programs that they will be arrested and isolated so that the country is saved from negative tendencies. [passage omitted]

#### Museveni on Moyo Aid, Moses Ali's Arrest

EA2305130190 Kampala Domestic Service in English  
0700 GMT 21 May 90

[Excerpt] President Museveni has announced that the government will release a sum of 10,000,000 shillings to compensate families which lost their people when Moyo town was bombed recently. Addressing a public rally at

Ajumani Sub-District headquarters last week. Mr. Museveni also expressed to the people his profound regret at that unfortunate act and said that the money was being released to aid the affected families.

Reacting to the various issues the people of the sub-district presented in their memorandum, President Museveni told them that since peace has returned to northern Uganda, the government would build grain stores and silos to absorb the marketing problem and also to demoisturize grain produce.

He expressed happiness to note that the people of Moyo District have embarked on cotton and simsim growing. He therefore urged them to grow more of these crops in order to earn more money for themselves, as well as for the country, adding that the country needs a lot of cotton to feed the factories in order to export finished textiles which fetch more money.

On the issue of roads, President Museveni said that the government has a big program of repairing them, adding that in areas which were peaceful, major roads have been repaired and the exercise is continuing. He told the rally that despite insecurity in the recent past in the north, the government repaired the Karuma-Pakwach-Arua road. Since peace now exists in the northern part of the country, the president said road networks in the region will be repaired and that road equipment currently deployed in the [words indistinct] Uganda will be transferred to the area to handle road repairs.

President Museveni told the rally that the ferry at Laropi on the River Nile will be repaired and if necessary a new one will be procured. He also said that motor boats will

be introduced to help people with transportation. Mr. Museveni told the rally that the government will continue sending iron sheets and cement to help the people of Ajumani to complete the hospital theater building at Ajumani.

Turning to the arrest of the NRC [National Resistance Council] member for the area and former minister of youth, culture, and sports Brigadier Moses Ali, Mr. Museveni told the people that Brig. Moses Ali was detained purely for his own personal mistakes and not as the representative of any group. He categorically assured them that the arrest of Brig. Moses Ali has nothing to do with the Madi people nor the former soldiers who were in the Uganda army. Mr. Museveni therefore advised the people of the area to go about their duties as usual and ignore those who go around alleging that because Brig. Moses Ali is under arrest, all the Madi people therefore are going to be hunted. He described such allegations as absolute nonsense.

President Museveni welcomed back home the people of Ajumani Sub-District from exile and commended them for embarking on immediate production. He also cautioned them against the scourge of the AIDS diseases and advised young people who intend to marry to have their blood screened before taking on wives or husbands.

The assistant district administrator for Ajumani, Second Lieutenant (Angalego Makwiga), said that the area is peaceful and that the 50,000 Sudanese refugees in the district are also peaceful. He also reported that the people of Ajumani Sub-District have embarked on production seriously ever since their return from exile. [passage omitted]

**Pik Botha Interview on De Klerk's European Tour**

*MB2405102890 Johannesburg Television Service  
in Afrikaans 1848 GMT 23 May 90*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Pik Botha by Clarence Keyter, South African Broadcasting Corporation correspondent, in Zurich on 23 May; introduced by correspondent Marietta Kruger—recorded]

[Text] [Kruger] President F. W. de Klerk's visit to Europe for the past two weeks or so has attracted great public interest and enjoyed wide publicity. He is accompanied on his visit by, among others, Foreign Minister Pik Botha. In Zurich today Clarence Keyter asked Mr. Botha to give his impressions of the tour and of how it differed from earlier visits:

[Botha] It is as different as day is from night. Where in the past we were received almost like people sneaking in and like people of whom these governments were ashamed, we are now being welcomed with open arms, with goodwill, courtesy, accessibility, and interest. We are being encouraged and wished well. There is great interest in the president's view of the future, how he foresees the constitutional negotiations unfolding, and what he would like to see entrenched in South Africa's new constitution. I think that describes the difference.

[Keyter] Do they believe President de Klerk unconditionally?

[Botha] Unconditionally is, of course, a weighty term. They believe him; they believe his honesty, his earnestness, his determination. You see, enough has happened. When he says they did not believe him about the implementation of the Namibian settlement plan, it is almost as though they are embarrassed. He points out to them that Namibia is now independent, Mr. Mandela has been released, and the African National Congress [ANC] and other organizations have been unbanned. Demonstrations are now allowed in South Africa and apartheid is on the way out.

It is just too much; too much has happened. They cannot deny that, even though they would like to be a bit skeptical. In my opinion, the steps which have already been taken are sufficient to establish our president's credibility. These people admit, openly and categorically, that the road he has taken is irreversible. That is important.

[Keyter] Mr. Botha, in the discussions that you and the state president had with the governments, industrialists, and financial leaders of the countries that you have already visited, what did they have to say about South Africa's intended constitutional course?

[Botha] We are not, of course, here to spell it out to them. What we do convey to them are the principles, the most important principles which we would like to see incorporated into a future constitution. These include a market-orientated economic system, the recognition and protection of private ownership rights, an independent

judicial system, freedom of speech and religion, and other fundamental freedoms and rights. These we want to see written into a new constitution.

We also state very clearly that the protection of minorities will not go hand in hand with the entrenchment of privileges for minorities, or with any form of racism. It will not serve as an extension of apartheid. You see, there are suspicions—which I have to acknowledge—there is some suspicion that when we talk of the protection of minority rights, it is just a way of presenting apartheid in a different guise. I think we have succeeded in breaking down that suspicion.

Of course, as far as the concept of majority government is concerned, the president has made it clear that we will oppose the abuse of power by a majority. We are opposed to the replacement of apartheid with another form of apartheid. That is what we are opposed to, and I am under the impression that these arguments are really gaining acceptance.

Sitting around the table, they do not always say yes, no, or but, or ask any further questions. As the president deals with a specific issue, however, one can read the body language; one has a sense of the other party's perceptions. The nod of a head, the manner in which one's message is being received, a statement such as: Yes, we understand that; these implications show that the president's explanation of the principles he wants to see incorporated in a constitution enjoy the approval and support of Europe.

[Keyter] Mr. Botha, you said just now that the release of Mr. Mandela has scored points for South Africa. But you also said that South Africa is interested in a market-orientated economy. Mr. Mandela will also be visiting Europe in the near future. What do you expect will happen?

[Botha] I expect that he will be received equally well, that he will be received with great respect, and that he will be applauded. That we have to accept. We are not opposed to his visit; in fact, we think it is good that Mr. Mandela should visit Europe as soon as possible. This is because, you see, in the past we have always had to explain apartheid wherever we went, and there were elements of apartheid which one could not explain. In the same way, we believe that Mr. Mandela will be questioned on his economic policy, on the statements about nationalization which certain ANC members have made, on his visits to certain countries, on his alliance with certain parties which are viewed with great suspicion in Europe.

It is not that we relish the prospect that Mr. Mandela may have to explain some of these policy statements. We want the leaders of South Africa—Mr. Mandela, Chief Buthelezi, leaders of other political groupings—to start realizing as soon as possible that Europe is undergoing changes which, to my mind, are comparable to the Renaissance which occurred ages ago. Europe is going to experience far-reaching political, economic, and social changes, and we in South Africa had better take note of

these changes. This includes Mr. Mandela, ourselves, and other responsible parties. Otherwise that which is occurring in Europe will become like a ship which is sailing past us, bidding us farewell.

[Keyter] What do the governments and financial leaders think of Africa? Do they think that there is a future here?

[Botha] I am afraid that European business leaders and elements in European governments are rejecting Africa. Personally, this is not good news. There may be elements in South Africa who think that this is good, but I disagree because Africa remains our continent. We are part of it. It is a pity the opinion of events in Africa is negative. There is complete distrust in Africa's ability to govern itself, to make a success of its economy, or to handle its administration.

This was stated emphatically. When I pleaded for funds on one occasion for a certain African state, I was told that governments cannot appeal to them for their private sectors, that they should invest where there is safety and freedom and not where there is a danger of nationalization or one-party states. He then said that if a company in our country knows that he will not make a profit, and possibly also a loss, in Addis Ababa, but that he can make a profit in Budapest, he will obviously take the easiest route. It is that simple.

[Keyter] Is this viewpoint applicable to the whole of Africa, or does it exclude South Africa?

[Botha] It excludes South Africa, but there is a measure of concern as to what can happen in Africa. As President de Klerk has said, we are prepared to share power, but we are not prepared to commit suicide. There was a general acceptance of that explanation.

[Keyter] Mr. Botha, to conclude, you and the president were involved in an accident last night. This morning you were still wearing a neck brace. What actually happened?

[Botha] As you can see, I can move my neck freely. A car bumped us from behind. They were Swiss drivers, and I feel sorry for them, because I am afraid that their licenses may be suspended. We appealed to the Swiss Government on their behalf and assured them that these drivers were competent. They had done their best, and it was an unavoidable accident.

[Keyter] No permanent scars?

[Botha] I hope not. [end recording]

#### Foreign Minister Comments

MB2305173090 Johannesburg Television Service  
in English 1545 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, says in general government and business leaders in Europe are writing Africa off. He said in Zurich today that there were possibly people in South Africa who

would approve of this, but the government regarded it as extremely regrettable because, after all, South Africa is part of Africa.

Commenting on the European tour of the state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, Mr. Botha said so far the results of the tour had been pleasing. (Lohana Tsotetsi) asked Mr. Botha for his lasting impressions of the tour.

[Begin video recording] [Botha] Firstly, the openness, friendliness with which we were received on this occasion. The governments of Europe are really interested in our view and our interpretation of events in South and southern Africa. And they do not try to teach us lessons, as in the past; they do not and cannot any longer say to us that apartheid must first go, because apartheid is going and they accept our commitment to eliminate all apartheid. So, now we can enter into discussions with Europe on the merits of policies of the future, the merits of economic policies and the role we can play in southern Africa and in Africa. It is a totally different scene; it has changed completely. With apartheid out of the way, we are now down to the discussion of the merits of policies and of our vision and of the future of southern Africa.

[Tsotetsi] Do you say that there is a general acceptance for South Africa and that these countries are convinced of the changes within South Africa?

[Botha] Yes, they are definitely convinced that President de Klerk cannot turn back, that the process he started is irreversible. They accept his integrity. They congratulate him on his boldness and courage and they look forward to a peaceful solution of our problems. [end video recording]

#### 'Most' Parties Support Constitution Amendments

MB2105213290 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 1900 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Most political parties have reacted favorably to the Constitution Amendment Bill that has been submitted to Parliament.

The Conservative Party [CP], however, has accused the National Party of putting its own interests above the democratic wishes of the voters. The CP spokesman on constitutional development, Mr. J. Prinsloo, has called the bill a transparent smokescreen. He said that it gave the government the opportunity of not appointing a commission on delimitations before 1994, which is four years after the deadline for the delimitation of electoral constituencies.

The Democratic Party [DP] says that it supports the Constitution Amendment Bill because the legislation means that the government is serious about change. The spokesman for the DP, Dr. Dennis Worrall, said that if the bill had not been introduced, another white election under the present triacameral system would probably have been held in future.

The Labor Party says that it supports the bill.

The deputy minister of constitutional development, Mr. Roelf Meyer, said earlier that the Constitution Amendment Bill was an essential technical step that would save time and money.

**Government, ANC Agree on Amnesty Proposal**

*MB2305051990 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2221 GMT 22 May 90*

[Text] Cape Town May 22 SAPA—The ANC [African National Congress] and South African Government negotiators have reached a provisional agreement on a formula for amnesty and the release of political prisoners.

The formula will now have to be approved by the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk and his cabinet, and by the ANC National Executive Committee.

Although the Department of Justice has officially declined to elaborate on the 38 people already granted amnesty, the ministry's media officer, Major Elsa Jones, said the working group charged to prepare the recommendations had done so in terms of the Groote Shuur minute.

The minute calls for norms and mechanisms dealing with the release of prisoners and the granting of immunity from prosecution for exiles.

It is understood from senior sources close to the negotiators that a formula had been agreed on. It stipulated various categories of prisoners and exiles, and a timescale. Although details are not available, sources say the rationale behind the document is that some categories of prisoners and exiles cannot be released into a society among whom a volatile unrest situation prevailed while others could be reintroduced fairly soon.

The final formula is still to be agreed to but the fact that agreement has now been reached between government and ANC negotiators appears to eliminate most changes of its rejection.

It also indicates that the ANC's stated bottom-line—the release of all political prisoners—has remained an achievable objective in terms of the agreement.

**Indemnity Granted to 2 ANC Members**

*MB2305132490 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 1100 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] Two more members of the ANC [African National Congress] have been granted temporary indemnity in accordance with the new indemnity bill. The acting state president, Dr. Gerrit Viljoen, announced in today's government gazette that indemnity was granted to Mr. Max Sisulu and Mr. (Tito Mboweni) until 19 August. This follows the announcement in Saturday [19 May] in an extraordinary government gazette that indemnity was granted to 38 members of the ANC.

The new bill gives the state president the power to grant temporary indemnity to people who will be taking part in future negotiations for a new constitution.

**Welkom Township Returns to Normal After Patrols**

*MB2305211590 Johannesburg Television Service  
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] The situation in the black residential area of Thabong, near Welkom, has returned to normal after three days of unrest. The last police action there took place last night during a crime prevention operation. Andries van Zyl and cameraman James Barkhuizen visited Thabong today.

[Begin video recording] [Van Zyl] This is (Matiesie) Road, the two km long highway in the center of Thabong where stones, bottles and petrol bombs have been thrown since Sunday. Yesterday stones were thrown at us, and the street was impassable. Today on this road and other parts of Thabong the atmosphere is tense. Motorists and minibuses drove unperturbed through the streets after residents removed the heaps of rubbish and barricades late last night. Soccer is being played today in streets where there had been stone throwing incidents yesterday. Friendly and curious people surrounded journalists and cameramen in the same street. Even street vendors, not seen yesterday, can be seen in large numbers at their posts.

[Police Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joe Malherbe] Last night's operations in Thabong gave us the opportunity to remove the tension which still existed amongs some of the residents. It also gave us the opportunity to improve relations between the residents and the South African Police. Cooperation was good.

[Van Zyl] The largest crime prevention operation, with more than 1,000 policeman and the Defense Force, began in Thabong shortly after 1200 this morning. One hundred riot vehicles were used, of which 40 were Caspirs and two were the police's latest (In'yala) riot vehicles. About 4,000 houses were searched and dangerous weapons were confiscated. During the operation, two illegal immigrants and 37 crime suspects were arrested. Later this morning the police and Defense Force members, with about 60 vehicles, proceeded through the white business sector in Welkom. During this procession, it was decided to reassure the public.

[Lt. Col. Malherbe] The operation in Welkom also gave us the opportunity to improve relations, especially amongst the public.

[Van Zyl] Last night the White Security Movement held a meeting in Welkom and decided that it would take a low profile and would work together with the police. It seems that the two-week consumer boycott against white-owned businesses in Welkom has come to an end. Very few blacks and coloreds did any shopping yesterday, but they came in large numbers today. [end video recording]

**General Malan Criticizes Mandela Remarks**

*MB2305160590 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, has repudiated remarks made by the deputy president of the ANC [African National Congress], Mr. Nelson Mandela, in a number of African countries recently.

Gen. Malan said on inquiry by our political staff that Mr. Mandela's remarks were not in accordance with the agreement reached at Groote Schuur. He said that there could be no new South Africa as long as agreements were broken, threats were made, and there was increasing talk of armed struggle. He said such action fermented a revolutionary climate.

Referring to the armed struggle, Gen. Malan said that the continued harping on such a struggle could wreck peaceful negotiations. He said that what was negotiable was the ending of the armed struggle and not a cease-fire. At Groote Schuur, Mr. Mandela committed himself to ending violence.

**Defense Minister: Army Can Meet Country's Needs**

*MB1905111090 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 19 May 90*

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, has told a military parade in Port Elizabeth that there is no place in a civilized community for people who want to take the law into their own hands.

He said there was only one army and that it served the interest of all, regardless of political differences. He said the South African Army was adequate and equipped to meet the country's needs.

**Malan Confirms Arms Sales to Force Members**

*MB2205195690 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1933 GMT 22 May 90*

[Text] Parliament May 22 SAPA—Phased-out weapons were being sold to members of the permanent force, citizen force, and commandos, the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said on Tuesday.

Replying in writing to a question from Mr. Ken Andrew (DP [Democratic Party] Gardens), he said this had been done as part of the SADF's [South African Defence Force] disposal procedures since 1961.

The weapons were .303 rifles, .38 revolvers and small arms ammunition.

Conditions relating to purchase of the weapons were that members had to have at least five years service, be in possession of a valid firearm licence, only bought one of a specific weapon and may not dispose of the weapons within five years of purchase, except in cases of finalisation of estates.

The weapons were sold at book value plus GST [Government Sales Tax]. Phased out ammunition was sold at purchase price plus GST and small arms ammunition was sold at contract price plus GST and a levy of 15 per cent.

**Minister Discusses Treatment of Territories**

*MB2305083390 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 0445 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] Dr. Stoffel van der Merwe, minister of education and development aid, said that the government has begun with a development strategy geared towards the future.

He said that every self-governing territory will be assisted to develop as part of a larger South Africa.

[Begin Van der Merwe video recording] It is very clear that the vast majority of the populations of the self-governing territories do not want to become independent. They want to be part of South Africa and the government accepts that, and we want them all as part of South Africa. Therefore, we are not trying to move them into the direction of independence.

They will become part and parcel of South Africa as self-governing regions in South Africa. [end recording]

**Committee To Coordinate Natal Development**

*MB2105155990 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1400 GMT 21 May 90*

[Text] The government is setting up a special action committee to coordinate Natal's socioeconomic development. The move has been announced in Parliament by Planning Minister Hernus Kriel.

Speaking during the debate in his budget, Kriel said an initial investigation has shown a comprehensive plan was needed, with greater emphasis placed on the economic development of the area. He said government had decided to appoint a regional coordinator, Professor Louis de Klerk, of the University of Zululand. Kriel warned that the problem could not be solved overnight, and what was being looked at was a 5 or 10-year action plan.

In another development today, Constitutional Development Minister Dr. Gerrit Viljoen and the chairman of the Natal-Kwazulu Indaba, Dr. Oscar Dhlomo, met for discussions, agreeing that regional options had to be held in abeyance for the time being. However, another [word indistinct] would be made for the Indaba proposals to be submitted at national negotiations later.

**Deputy Suggests Natal Plan Useful in Other Areas**

*MB2205194290 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1927 GMT 22 May 90*

[Text] Parliament May 22 SAPA—Project Natalia—part of the government's answer to the unrest in Natal—

could be useful as a base model for other areas, the deputy minister of provincial affairs, Dr. Tertius Delport, said on Tuesday.

Speaking during debate on the planning and provincial affairs vote, he said important guidelines for this project were:

- historical borders had to become less important and logical developing units had to become the guidelines;
- a co-ordinated development programme to identify needs, evaluate current projects, address regional priorities, coordinate financial sources, determine the private sector contribution and the community's need for social development and functions, had to be established;
- the role and function of all development agencies had to be evaluated; and
- a climate had to be created in which everyone's interests were placed before political or sectional interests.

#### Department To Raise Funds To Improve Africa Ties

MB1905063490 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 0500 GMT 19 May 90

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs is to spend an additional 36 million rands this financial year on a program to improve relations with the rest of Africa.

The supplementary estimate of expenditure from the state revenue account shows that an additional 111 million rands will be devoted for assistance to the self-governing territories and almost 74 million rands for the Department of Education and Training for professional and special services in primary and secondary schools.

#### ANC Criticizes Labor Party on Mier Land Bill

MB2205205990 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2051 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] Cape Town May 22 SAPA—The attempt by the Labour Party [LP] to "force through" the passage of the Mier Rural Land Bill was sinister and what was being seen was "the first attempt at privatising trust land," African National Congress [ANC] Western Cape Executive member Mr Trevor Manuel said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference in Cape Town on the Mier Rural Land Bill, he said the ANC and Congress of SA [South Africa] Trade Unions were committed to campaign against all forms of privatisation, and that the privatisation of traditional community-owned land was "a new phenomenon that must be stopped immediately".

The LP's attempt to force through the bill was disappointing because its leader, Mr Allan Hendrickse, had given a previous commitment to the ANC's Mr Nelson Mandela that the bill would not go through. The LP "appears to be ignorant of the moves to peace in our country," Mr Manuel added.

Quoting the Freedom Charter's dictum that "the land shall be shared among those who work it", he said the pastoralists of Mier worked the land and to rob them of the land was to deny them the right to live.

UDF [United Democratic Front] Executive member and Willie Hofmeyr said at the same meeting that "the residents of Mier not only have a legitimate right not to be threatened in this way but also have a right to decide for themselves what will happen to their land. They have overwhelmingly rejected the sale of their land to private ownership." He called on the LP to "desist from these acts".

The bill itself proposes the establishment of farm units which may be sold "to any registered occupier" of the Mier rural area—including the pastoralists themselves; the establishment of a game farm on the borders of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park; and provision for the establishment of 40 townships. A memorandum to the bill states the establishment of the game farm in particular would be "a source of revenue" for the existing board of management of the area.

Residents of Mier, due to arrive in Cape Town on Tuesday, had not arrived by the time the press conference took place, but are expected on Tuesday evening. They will meet Mr Hendrickse in Cape Town on Wednesday [23 May].

#### Trade Surplus Increases Over Last Four Months

MB1805190090 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 1600 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Statistics released by the commissioner of customs and excise show that South Africa's trade surplus for the first four months of this year was more than 5,000 million rands, which is almost 32 percent higher than the 3,800 million rands achieved during the same period last year.

Imports, at over 14,000 million rands for this period this year, were marginally higher than for the same period last year, while exports were just over 19,000 million rands, about 1,600 million rands more than this time last year. Exports of products other than gold showed a sharp drop, particularly in March this year.

Economists point out that the positive political and economic developments have contributed to the Reserve Bank not being concerned about the position of the trade balance. More emphasis was being placed on combating inflation.

They said it also appeared unlikely that South Africa would have to repay the full \$2,200 million foreign debt this year provided that the rolling-over of debt and increased accessibility to foreign credit continued.

**Exports to UK Rise**

MB2105180490 *Cape Town CAPE TIMES* in English  
18 May 90 p 8

[From the "Business Report" section]

[Text] JOHANNESBURG—SA's exports to the UK jumped 43 percent in the first quarter of this year and for the first time since 1986, trade between the two countries was in balance, said British Consul-General John Doble yesterday.

Speaking at a Sabrita (SA Britain Trade Association) lunch in Johannesburg, Doble said trade between SA and the UK was flourishing.

While the UK's exports to SA in 1989 had remained static at 1 billion British pounds because of SA's tight monetary policy, SA's exports to the UK rose 9.5 percent to 885 million British pounds.

However, in the first quarter of this year trade between the two countries grew considerably, the UK's exports rising 14 percent while SA's jumped 43 percent.

The UK's major exports to SA included power generation, railway engines, machine tools, mining equipment and whisky.

In addition, he believed there was great potential for new British investment, following the recent lifting of the UK's ban on new investment.

But the two provisos for this were that SA achieved a new constitution acceptable to the majority of its people and that this constitution maintained a largely free market economy.

The enhancement of black living standards would create new demand in sectors like construction, water and electricity supply, furnishings and domestic equipment, he said.

In addition, increased demand would also come from other southern and central African countries, especially because of foreign aid to rebuild their economies.

Much of the equipment and expertise would come from SA. UK firms bidding for contracts would probably bid through their SA subsidiaries or SA.

**Bank Financing for Lesotho Highlands Project**

MB2305201590 *Johannesburg Television Service*  
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority negotiated loans to the value of 298 million rands today to finance the advanced infrastructure of Lesotho's Highland Water Scheme. Projects which will benefit include road construction programs and the provision of electricity and telecommunications.

[Begin correspondent David van der Sandt video recording] One of the agreements signed was a loan of

135 million rands, which was obtained from a consortium of South African banks—the Rand Aksebank, Volkskas Bank and Volkskas Aksebank. This loan is underwritten by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Dr. Owen (Hallwood) signed on behalf of the Development Bank.

This is the first large commercial loan negotiated and the first single loan by a borrower in Lesotho.

Four loan agreements totaling 163 million rands were signed by the Development Bank. This brings this bank's total contribution toward the project to almost 400 million rands, and the agreements bring the total loan figures obtained for the Highlands project to more than 700 million rands. [end video recording]

**Johannesburg Council Committed to 'Open' City**

MB2305123490 *Johannesburg Domestic Service*  
in English 1100 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] The Johannesburg City Council has committed itself irrevocably to an open Johannesburg and will take immediate steps to open the city's residential areas to all races.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr. Ian Davidson, told a news conference this morning that his government [as heard] could not wait for the government's intention to repeal the Group Areas Act. He said that for this reason a committee had been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Sias Reynecke, councillor for Berea, to investigate the possibility of an open Johannesburg.

Mr. Reynecke is being assisted by two Democratic Party councillors, Mr. (C. Garrum) and Mr. J. Briggs, and three National Party councillors, Mr. H. Kruger, Mr. (K. Wearing), and Mr. E. Venter. Mr. Davidson said members of the private sector would also serve on the committee.

**Teachers Call For Single Education System**

MB2105083590 *Umtata Capital Radio* in English  
0700 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Teachers from a number of organizations operating in Natal and KwaZulu have endorsed demands for a single education ministry. The teachers were meeting at a rally in Durban yesterday afternoon. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Begin Rickard recording] Teachers backed demands to be discussed with National Education Minister Gene Louw [title as heard] in Cape Town next Monday. They want one education system and immediate intervention in the growing black education crisis.

The meeting with Louw, to be attended by delegates from teachers' organizations around the country, is seen as crucially important and an official told me this

morning schools in the western Cape plan a stayaway on Monday to support teachers' demands.

Speakers from all local teachers' organizations attended yesterday's rally, among them, the Natal Teachers Union, NATU, which is an Inkatha affiliate. Members of the crowd booed the NATU speakers and it took some time before order was restored. Like their colleagues and other teachers' organizations, however, the NATU speakers gave their backing to a single education ministry. [end recording]

#### Lebowa Student Committee Makes Education Demands

MB2205122890 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1209 GMT 22 May 90

[By Andrew Lefoka]

[Text] Johannesburg May 22 SAPA—A coordinating committee representing all student representative councils of all colleges in Lebowa has made far-reaching demands on the government, as the education crisis continues in Lebowa.

SA Council of Churches fieldworker Mr. Simon Nedohe said high schools and tertiary institutions were the worst hit by the crisis.

The Lebowa education department could not immediately be reached for comment.

"There has been no normal schooling in Lebowa since the beginning of the year," Mr. Medohe told SAPA by telephone.

Mr. Nedohe said students in the homeland had engaged in a spate of school boycotts, in protest against what they regarded as inadequate apartheid education.

"The students say if authorities cannot solve the crisis, Lebowa should hand its education department back to South Africa."

One of the far-reaching demands made is the immediate dissolution of the Lebowa government, and the release from detention of students.

There were sporadic detentions of students in the nominally independent homeland, including Sekhukhune and Seshego areas, where students were on trial for politically motivated crimes, added Mr. Nedohe.

The students had also called on the authorities to appoint health officers to their institutions, believed to have been hit by a spate of food poisoning.

The coordinating committee on May 16 tabled a memorandum with a set of demands to the education department, which was given until tomorrow [23 May] (Wednesday) to respond.

#### Right-Wing 'Freedom Struggle' Set for 26 May

MB2105260290 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1959 GMT 21 May 90

[Text] Pretoria May 21 SAPA—Conservative South Africans are set to fire the first political shots of their "third freedom struggle" with a mass gathering at the Voortrekker Monument near Pretoria on Saturday [26 May].

The rally, billed as a "volksvergadering" or national assembly, has been widely advertised and is expected to draw thousands of conservatives from all areas of the country, CP [Conservative Party] information officer Mr. Andries Beyers told SAPA on Monday.

Its main thrust will be to announce conservative resistance to the looming threat of oppression by the leaders of a "new South Africa."

"The third freedom struggle begins with the volksvergadering," said Mr. Beyers, whose party has organised the event.

The gathering will be addressed by CP leader Dr. Andries Treurnicht, who will "put something to the volk for their approval," Mr. Beyers said, declining to elaborate further.

The battle for emancipating of the volk—Afrikaans and English-speaking conservatives—would take on the character of that waged by any oppressed people.

The struggle would first follow the route of negotiations and bargaining, hopefully steering to a general election, Mr. Beyers said.

"We will first try to utilise all constitutional means to achieve our goals, but once these are exhausted we will resort to the methods of an oppressed volk."

No organisations had been formally invited to the assembly, but anybody who believed in the people's struggle ("volkstryd") could attend.

Dr. Treurnicht and CP co-leader Dr. Ferdi Hartzenberg would be the only dignitaries on the public platform and any other party leaders at the gathering would be there as supporters of the CP, Mr. Beyers said.

No arms would be allowed into the venue—the amphitheatre at the Voortrekker Monument.

Proceedings on Saturday will be opened with a 500-member mounted commando riding from the Pretoria showgrounds, via the Heroes Acre, Church Square and miscellaneous statues of former Voortrekker and Boer leaders, to the monument. Commemorative wreaths will be laid at, among others, the Heroes Acre, President Paul Kruger's statue and the statues of President F.W. Pretorius and Kommandant Andries Potgieter.

En route to the monument Dr. Treurnicht and Dr. Hartzenberg will be transferred to two horse-drawn carriages.

Rehearsals for a service of contrition and mass choral performance will be staged on Friday night, when 50 stalls selling food, drinks and memorabilia will open.

The main event starts at 1000 and Dr. Treurnicht will deliver his speech at 1230. The ceremony closes at 1400.

Asked whether participants in the rally would march to Pretoria afterwards, Mr. Beyers said: "We do not contemplate doing anything unlawful."

#### CP Spokesman Reacts to Vlok on Commandos Threat

MB2205203790 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 1900 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] The Conservative Party [CP] spokesman on justice, Mr. Chris de Jager, says that commandos have been established in South Africa because people no longer trust the minister of law and order, Mr. Adriaan Vlok, with this country's security.

Mr. de Jager was responding to a statement made by Mr. Vlok during an interpolation in the House of Assembly on Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement—AWB] commandos and the bearing of arms in public.

Mr. Vlok said that he would consider enforcing legislation against armed vigilante groups, commandos, and people carrying dangerous weapons at public meetings.

Mr. de Jager said people had no other choice but to form their own commandos as they were prevented from joining the police reservists if they belonged to the CP or the AWB.

A coleader of the Democratic Party, Mr. Wynand Malan urged Mr. Vlok to implement the steps immediately. He said that if the minister waited, he would have to take action when violence flared up again, which would cause great problems.

#### Reddy Reacts to Party Resignation, Criticism

MB2405203890 Johannesburg Television Service  
in English 1800 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Delegates, Dr. J.N. Reddy, says too much unfounded criticism is being leveled at his Ministers' Council, while too little attention is being given to important community issues.

Dr. Reddy was reacting to the resignation of his Solidarity Party's national secretary, Mr. Saarty Naidoo. Mr. Naidoo announced his resignation from Solidarity, saying he was dissatisfied with party leadership. Dr. Reddy said although he regretted Mr. Naidoo's resignation, he found his attitude unacceptable. He spoke to Yusuf Abrahamjee of our political news staff.

[Reddy] What is even more disturbing is his categoric statement to the effect that there has been a plan afoot to unseat the Ministers' Council and that he expects something to happen before parliament rises in June, and that makes me believe that the move on his part yesterday is merely a prelude to something that has been planned for some time in the hope that it may materialize. But, as you are well aware, the desire to change the Ministers' Council is a move that was manifest all day long and all year long in the House of Delegates.

[Abrahamjee] Members have been critical, Dr. Reddy, of your handling of the housing portfolio, and also of the handling of the work of the other ministers as well. What is your reaction?

[Reddy] The housing portfolio is what I inherited (?after) that administration by a previous party for more than five years. We are working to build homes as speedily as possible, and that is going on. But when somebody says what has happened to a 40 million housing scheme announced by the previous housing minister in Tongaat, my answer is simply this: There was no such scheme planned, and therefore to criticize me on a matter like that is totally unfair. I am open to criticism, but criticism must be based on some facts.

#### Reportage on President's European Visit

WA2505154790

For reportage on the visit to Switzerland, Spain, and Italy by President Frederik W. de Klerk, including reports on his talks with top leaders, please see the respective country sections of the 25 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### Angola

#### Deputy Foreign Minister's Africa Day Speech

MB2305202090 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
1900 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura today deplored the fact that some African countries are not carrying out decisions approved by the OAU, particularly with regard to noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. Venancio de Moura said this over the Angolan national radio on the occasion of Africa Day, which is marked the day after tomorrow [25 May].

The deputy foreign minister also deplored the attitude of some countries on the continent which act as transit points for foreign assistance destined for rebels fighting legitimate governments. Venancio de Moura pointed out that this attitude constitutes a total disrespect for the OAU recommendations.

He pointed out that Namibian independence was one of the OAU's most important gains in its 27 years of existence. The achievement of Namibian independence, which is a result of the OAU struggle, was a matter of particular pride for the Angolan people and (?government).

#### UNITA Marks OAU Anniversary on Africa Day

MB2505065590 (Clandestine) KUP in English to  
Southern and Central Africa 0610 GMT 25 May 90

##### [Commentary]

[Text] Jamba, Thursday, May 24...May 25 [dateline as received]—Africa marks 27 years since the foundation of the PanAfrican body, the Organization of African Unity, OAU.

This year's OAU anniversary is particularly significant in that it comes at a time when the panAfrican body has just accomplished one of the fundamental objectives for the creation of the OAU: the liberation of the African Continent from colonial rule. At last this has been achieved following the attainment of independence by Africa's last colony, Namibia, on March 21 this year.

UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], the Angolan nationalist movement founded in the 1960s to fight against Portuguese colonial rule in Angola and currently engaged in a national resistance struggle against the occupation of the country by the Russians and Cubans, has always defended the ideal of panAfricanism aimed at the unity of all African people and the economic and social well-being of the African Continent.

It is worth noting that the UNITA president, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, is one of the African nationalist leaders who played a key role in the creation of the OAU. During the preparatory meetings of the panAfrican body in 1963, Dr. Savimbi was elected chairman of the liberation committee in its embryo stage. It was this committee which was charged with drawing up the guidelines to be

adopted in the struggle to free African countries which were at that time still under colonial rule.

Since then, UNITA has remained true to the founding principles of the OAU, having fought against and defeated colonialism in Angola and currently engaged in the national resistance struggle against Russian-Cuban occupation of Angola.

After 27 years of existence, the OAU should not remain behind world events and must instead be responsive to the current winds for multiparty democratic change sweeping through the world by encouraging its member states to accept this popular and unstoppable trend.

With the setting up of multiparty democratic institutions in its member states, the OAU can accomplish the task of economic and social development for the continent.

The people have to be given a say in the running of their own affairs and the leaders be made to be answerable to the electorate for their actions. In this way, Africa will have lived up to the expectations and aspirations of its millions of inhabitants and pay tribute to the founding fathers of the Organizations of African Unity.

#### U.S. Reportedly To Give \$10 Million to UNITA

MB2505075890 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
0600 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] The United States plans to grant \$10 million in emergency military aid to the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels, according to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, citing U.S. congressional sources in Washington on 23 May.

Those sources also disclosed that U.S. aid to UNITA for the first time will include antiaircraft missiles of greater range than Stinger missiles. (?Most of the money) is already in UNITA's hands.

The United States annually grants aid worth \$50 million to UNITA.

To back up its aid request, UNITA alleged its stocks were depleted because of the war's intensity.

While the Angolan Government is profoundly committed to the search for peace, UNITA has lately intensified its military operations, notably in central and northern Angola.

#### Overseas Workers Complain Over GDR 'Racism'

MB2505091990 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
1900 GMT 25 May 90

[Excerpt] Sixty percent of Angolans working in an industrial silo-producing factory in Erfurt, GDR, wish to return to the country this year, before completing their labor contracts.

LUSA news agency learned this from the Angolan workers, mostly [words indistinct] fear the (?well-known)

[words indistinct] Portugal and the racism they say they suffer at the hands of the East Germans.

It should be noted this group of Angolans is part of a contingent of 1,614 workers the Angolan Labor and Social Security Ministry sent to the GDR [words indistinct] under the terms of an accord signed by (?the Angolan Government) and the GDR authorities. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

### Government Hopes To Repatriate Refugees

MB2505080590 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
0600 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Roberto dos Santos, state secretary for social affairs, told Angolan national radio yesterday that 1,800 refugees in Namibia want to return home.

State Secretary Roberto dos Santos said a technical team for social affairs has already arrived in Namibia for on-site discussions of the problems presented by the refugees.

(?That team should then) work with some UN experts to help facilitate the return of those Angolans to the country.

### Huambo Refugee Figures Increase to 80,000

MB2205203390 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
1900 GMT 22 May 90

[Text] The number of war-displaced people in Huambo Province has increased to 80,000 because of intensification of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] attacks.

Suzana Augusta, provincial secretary for social affairs, revealed this in the province today. The provincial secretary for social affairs also spoke of an emergency program to assist 10,000 war-displaced people this year by minimizing these people's shortages in food and clothing.

The emergency program, Save the Children, is being carried out by international humanitarian organizations and is currently found at an advanced stage of implementation.

### MPLA, CPC Delegations Exchange Experiences

MB250791190 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese  
1900 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Delegations from the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party and the CPC met in Luanda this afternoon to exchange experiences and to discuss organizational issues.

The CPC team, led by Organization Department Deputy Director Meng Liankun, arrived in Luanda today and placed a wreath at former Angolan President Antonio Agostinho Neto's tomb.

The CPC team is repaying a visit an MPLA-Labor Party delegation made to the PRC in 1989.

The PRC delegation will visit places of economic, social, and cultural interest and will hold another round of talks with the MPLA-Labor Party's Luanda Province Committee tomorrow.

The CPC delegation will also meet Afonso van Dunem, MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee foreign affairs secretary.

Meng Liankun, the CPC delegation leader, will deliver a lecture entitled: The Communist Party and Reform in the PRC.

The CPC delegation will return home 28 May.

### Mauritius

#### \* Bhagirutty Speaks on MLC Joining NTUC

90AF0102A Port Louis WEEK-END in French  
22 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with C. Bhagirutty, president of the MLC [Mauritius Labor Congress], by Michel Dedans; date and place not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The MLC is a part of the NTUC [National Trade Union Confederation], for its initiative was responsible for the confederation's establishment. But the trade union congress with headquarters on Dr La Faye Street does not plan to return to the NTUC until the trade unions that serve as political party mouthpieces change their ways. The MLC, which represents some 22,000 government workers, is demanding a seat on the Central Whitley Council (CWC) alongside the FSSC [Federation of Unions of Constituent Bodies] so it can make its voice heard. During the interview he granted to Michel Dedans, the MLC president considered the future of the trade union movement on Mauritius. He also proposed a reassessment and development of a new strategy on the labor scene, which has changed completely over the last 10 years.

[WEEK-END] Mr Chandersensing Bhagirutty, what is your analysis of the state of the Mauritian labor movement at the beginning of the decade that is going to take us to the brink of the 21st century?

[Bhagirutty] First of all, the Mauritian trade union movement must analyze all the changes that have taken place on the Mauritian labor scene: accelerated industrialization, a new industrial environment, and thus new attitudes; the end of unemployment and the surprising development of overemployment; the improvements in workers' quality of life; the need for public leisure facilities, culture, and a social life for wage-earners; the new aspirations of the working class, whose average household income has risen, though it has suffered some erosion since 1988; the need for training and education, not only for trade union leaders but also for the workers.

At the same time, we must devise a strategy to unionize more workers in the free zone, principally those employed by foreign companies, and more specifically those working for companies owned by investors from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

[WEEK-END] So you admit that the trade union movement needs to be reformed and that it must revitalize itself if it wants to remain in tune with the realities of the labor scene?

[Bhagirutty] Quite so. Trade unionism must redefine itself. Old-time unionism, like street-fighting unionism, is finished. And the violent unionism of immoderate demands, as exemplified in the last general strike in 1979, all that must be consigned to the museum. Obviously, modern trade unionism should fight to improve workers' living conditions, but it should not limit itself to wage demands. There is another dimension of equal importance. It needs to concern itself with health, education, the cooperative movement, consumer protection, and financial assistance to members for various purposes. So last Sunday, as I listened to Mr Berenger talking about the "dinosaurs" in the labor movement, I could not help laughing. Coming from the man who once served as negotiator for the GWF [General Workers Federation] and is currently the technical adviser for the same federation, it was simply too much! For we here at the MLC are getting things done in several domains: a professionally managed trade union education center with permanent facilities (10,000 workers have already received training); the cooperative bank to which we have allocated, for the benefit of members, the sum of 250,000 rupees annually for small loans at an interest rate of one percent, at a time when the rate offered by commercial banks is around 18-19 percent; our five credit unions, with a business volume of 15 million rupees per year; a 1.5-million-rupee loan fund for small agricultural projects (less than 5,000 rupees). That is what I call responsible trade unionism. And this is the challenge facing the Mauritian labor movement today.

#### Decline in Trade Union Movement

[WEEK-END] Why are you so critical of those who led the strike in 1979? Are you among those who still contend the strike broke the power of the trade unions and that the labor movement emerged weakened from the ordeal?

[Bhagirutty] I am not going to render a very harsh judgment on those who were responsible for the strike. But it is important for the labor movement to reflect on the outcome and draw lessons from the experience. The strike started in the sugar industry, as a battle for recognition of two unions affiliated with the MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement]—namely, SILU [Sugar Industry Laborers Union] and UASI [Union of Artisans of the Sugar Industry]. According to figures from the Registrar of Associations, SILU only had 533 members. So the country suffered through that whole ordeal for the sake—and solely for the sake—of obtaining recognition

for those 533 agricultural workers; whereas our trade union, the Plantation Workers Union, represented 10 times as many workers as SILU. Not counting those who lost their jobs on the docks, in the transport industry, and in the sugar industry. The trade union movement has clearly declined in the aftermath of the strike. Let's not be afraid to admit it. We must look the facts in the face and not run from the truth. There has not been a single general strike since that time—a few small strikes, but none of importance.

[WEEK-END] How can you say so, when there was a strike at the CEB [Central Electricity Board] that was more effective than any previous general strike, plunging the whole country into a blackout? And in that connection, what is your judgment of the CEBSA [expansion unknown] strike? Do you think it harmed the trade union movement?

[Bhagirutty] I am not sitting in judgment, but I am constrained to say that the strike was poorly managed. From lack of experience? Were they victims of an ostentatiously public and assertive solidarity professed by labor leaders whose actions failed to measure up to their words? There are procedures that must be followed and laws to be respected, even if some of them really need to be amended. But trade unionists should never show disrespect for the law. In a strike you have to know where you are going. The leaders of CEBSA, despite all the support they had from labor advisers, forgot that the attitudes of workers and consumers had changed since 1979. The worker-consumers reacted more like consumers than workers. Because electricity—which is justly called the "god of the hearth"—is indeed a critical household need. Deprived of electricity, the populace turned against the strikers. Because of the CEBSA leaders, the labor movement today is weaker, notwithstanding all the proofs of solidarity it can muster. It is sad to say, but it is the truth. Yet other people are perhaps even more to blame for this situation: those who shamelessly manipulated them and then deserted them. Where was the solidarity they were promised? Nowhere to be found. The leaders of CEBSA and the CEB employees should think about those "friends" who abandoned them after encouraging them to be intransigent. That is why I speak of responsible trade unionism. It is too easy to indulge in demagoguery, to make all sorts of promises and then, when the moment of truth comes—to disappear. We in the MLC have never left any of our members in the lurch that way.

#### De Facto Solidarity

[WEEK-END] How do you plan to help the fired CEB employees, especially the trade union leaders the prime minister doesn't want to pardon?

[Bhagirutty] Even though they have never come to see us, despite our broadly representative base of support, we have on several occasions demanded pardons for them. We even made a direct appeal to the prime minister on his 60th birthday. And we will continue to

take steps on their behalf, because in reality our solidarity extends to them also.

[WEEK-END] You speak of labor solidarity, a synonym for trade-union unity. Why therefore don't you go back to the NTUC and join the other trade union federations in presenting a really strong front in the tripartite negotiations?

[Bhagirutty] The MLC represents some 60,000 members. Between 1979 and 1990 the number of trade unions affiliated with us grew from 17 to 52. Remarkable growth, you will admit, despite all the rivalries and competition we have faced. This makes people jealous; some even go so far as to make all sorts of accusations against us. That said, the MLC has its place in the NTUC, because (let us not forget) that trade union confederation had its birth right here in our offices. But some NTUC members are going to have to choose between their political ambitions and their commitment to the labor movement. Because over the last few weeks we have heard Mr Varien of the GWF giving "orders" to the MMM in the Bhagwan case, while Mr Jack Bizlall holds public rallies for his new political formation. The workers do not want to be held hostage by trade-union politicians or by political trade unionists, since such people always hold back the labor movement and always argue the party's line when labor issues are being discussed. That is what we are against. And we call on all real trade unionists to expel those false unionists from the movement. They can count on us. Our place is inside an NTUC freed of those ambitious politicians disguised as unionists.

[WEEK-END] Such remarks seem to support those who accuse the MLC of being a progovernment federation, one which takes whatever the government dishes out to the detriment of the other labor groups.

[Bhagirutty] I have heard this song before. It doesn't hold up. If it were true, how do you explain Mr Algo's arrest during the Sinotex strike and the subsequent attacks against me? It is true, of course, that the MLC has an operating style different from many other trade unions and federations. We are working to improve the lives of our members. And it is results that count. So we take great care in choosing our issues, and we fight for them effectively. We are not against the government, neither are we in its camp. We are simply in the workers' camp! We in the MLC are legalists—that is, we respect the current government because it is an expression of the popular will. And when there are issues to discuss, we need them as interlocutors. You can't hold a dialogue with a stone. Also, it would be fair to say that the MLC is the only federation whose member organizations control all economic sectors of the country.

#### Archaic Laws

[WEEK-END] Why is the MLC venturing onto the ground already occupied by the FSSC? Why is it calling for an amendment to "Whitleyism" to obtain a seat on the Central Whitley Council?

[Bhagirutty] Because the MLC represents some 22,000 government workers, and it is unfair that they cannot make their voice heard in the CWC.

[WEEK-END] Are you proposing the FSSC's expulsion?

[Bhagirutty] No. We are demanding joint recognition, so both the FSSC and the MLC can participate in the CWC's deliberations. The "Whitleyist" laws are archaic, dating from the colonial era. They need to be amended.

[WEEK-END] MLC's wage proposals are more moderate than those of the NTUC. What was the basis of the figures you came up with?

[Bhagirutty] We are calling for a sacrifice on the part of the middle class, which will be made up by the income tax allowance we are asking the finance minister to include in the upcoming budget. But it is essential that the economically weakest get the full benefit of the compensation—that is, 30 percent.

[WEEK-END] You are currently arguing cases before two wage boards, the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal (TAP) and the National Wage Council (NRB). Why?

[Bhagirutty] After 18 months, the TAP has finally gotten to our case. We really need to create two or even three more arbitration boards, because workers cannot wait 2 or 3 years to get satisfaction. I testified last Thursday and I will do so again next Tuesday. We are fighting about the issue of comparative wages as defined in the Cheshworth Report, because a government worker (man or woman) gets a salary of 2,400 rupees, while a female worker in the sugar industry gets less than half that amount. In the NRB case we are asking for a wage adjustment, because income from the sugar sector has grown from 2.8 billion rupees in 1983 to 5 billion in 1989. It has almost doubled. So the workers in this sector deserve a wage increase.

#### Mozambique

##### GDR Official Views Nationals' Labor Contracts

MB2405130590 Maputo in English to Southern Africa  
1100 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] East Germany's secretary of state for foreign nationals, (Helmeke Berger), who is visiting Mozambique, has been explaining the position of Mozambican migrants following the political changes in East Germany.

Mrs. (Berger) arrived in Maputo on Tuesday [22 May], and she is holding discussions with the Mozambican authorities on the future of the Mozambican workers, numbering about 15,500. She told journalists in the Mozambican capital that some of the migrants will have to return before their contracts expire because of the (sackings) ordered in some of the workplaces.

She said her government and the Mozambican Labor Ministry are studying ways of compensating those workers made redundant. Mrs. (Berger) said no time

limit had been set before the return of those workers affected. She said that efforts are being made to ensure that the majority of the migrants would be able to stay in Germany until the end of their contracts.

Mrs. (Berger) said the change in the political climate in East Germany should not affect cooperation with Mozambique. She said the new government was interested in maintaining the relations of friendship that the two countries had in the past.

A national director in the Mozambican Labor Ministry, Miguel Jonas, said the renegotiation of the labor agreement would have an impact on Mozambique's debt to East Germany.

### **Chissano Seeks Stronger Relations With FRG**

*MB2405190790 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese  
1730 GMT 24 May 90*

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano has expressed the desire to see existing cooperation relations between Mozambique and the FRG further strengthened and diversified. This is stated in a message the Mozambican head of state has sent to Richard von Weizsäcker, his FRG counterpart, on the occasion of that country's national day yesterday [23 May].

In his message, Chissano notes that the marking of the occasion in Mozambique served to recall with great satisfaction the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples and governments. The message adds that such relations have experienced significant growth in the past five years.

### **Chissano Favors Malawi as Venue for Renamo Talks**

*MB2505085690 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese  
0800 GMT 25 May 90*

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano said in Maputo yesterday the Mozambican people want peace, but not at the expense of Mozambique's freedom and independence.

The Mozambican head of state said this at a meeting with some 50 academicians from various parts of the globe who had been attending the international seminar on the subject of "Rethinking Strategies for Mozambique and Southern Africa."

Reviewing the peace process, President Joaquim Chissano called on the international community to assist Mozambique within that context, even when the country has already achieved peace.

The Mozambican head of state reiterated Malawi was the most convenient and least expensive venue for direct Mozambican Government-Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] talks.

### **Zambia**

#### **President Kaunda Receives S. African Delegation**

*MB2405183090 Lusaka Domestic Service in English  
1800 GMT 24 May 90*

[Text] President Kaunda today told the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa [IDASA], some of whose members are in Lusaka to discuss with the ANC [African National Congress], that the international community owes it a lot for its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem of apartheid inside South Africa. He said South Africa is a country with problems of a special type which have divided human beings.

President Kaunda was speaking at State House today, when he met a group of 44 IDASA members who arrived in Zambia yesterday for a series of meetings with the ANC military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe [spear of the nation].

IDASA is composed of retired Army and Air Force officers of the South African Defense Force and homelands' armies and are in Lusaka to explore areas of cooperation which are crucial to the future of democratic South Africa. [sentence as heard]

#### **Grey Zulu Reiterates Call for One-Party State**

*MB2305195590 Lusaka Domestic Service in English  
1800 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] Party Secretary General Comrade Grey Zulu declared in Solwezi today that people who are calling for the reintroduction of a multiparty system have put UNIP [United National Independence Party] on trial. He said these people are claiming that the present one-party participatory democracy has brought untold misery to Zambians. Comrade Zulu said, in short, every party member was on trial, and to win the case there will be need to work together, speaking with one voice.

The party chief said this when he officially closed the 11th Northwestern Province annual party conference at Mutabula site on the outskirts of Solwezi.

## Cape Verde

### \* Republic's Regional Diplomatic Efforts Noted

90AF01064 Paris *LE MONDE* in French  
27 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] "A small country like ours would have no chance if it couldn't find ways of making itself useful," says Mr Pedro Pires, who has been prime minister of Cape Verde since independence. Pires is also deputy secretary general of the country's only political party, though the days of one-party politics are soon coming to an end. This African mini-state, made up of 10 islands 500 km off Dakar where some 350,000 people eke out their existence after a fashion, has tried to justify its existence by discreetly making its own modest contribution to the resolution of conflicts going on in its neighborhood.

God knows how hard the world's great powers have tried to establish bases, or even just military facilities, on these islands situated so strategically in the South Atlantic: but in vain. Cape Verde's leaders have refused to alter the policy of "active nonalignment," which enables them today to offer their services to those in any camp who ask for their help.

"We have no hegemonic pretensions," explained Mr Pires recently while on a private trip to Paris. And what is more, "during our war of national liberation, we acquired some diplomatic experience." So it is not as if they had no qualifications for the calling.

Just after independence, Cape Verdean authorities dissuaded the OAU [Organization of African Unity] from campaigning for the independence of the Canary Islands, in order "not to obstruct the democratization process under way in Madrid," according to Mr Pires. A decade later they agreed to grant asylum to a handful of Spanish Basques, presumed members of the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Group], in order to "render a service to a country with which we have friendly relations," the prime minister said.

In 1979, when Angolans and South Africans initially agreed to hold talks, Cape Verde was the site chosen for their first meeting. The host country very quickly got involved in their discussions. "We have acquired a taste for the diplomatic game," notes Mr Pires. "We have been facilitators for both sides and have stayed in contact with the negotiators to keep ourselves informed, whenever talks took place elsewhere."

### Rewarded

According to Praia's leaders, "nothing is so important as direct talks, even at a very low level." In their view, "African conflicts must be resolved by Africans themselves." As it turned out, however, the agreement providing for Namibian independence and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was signed in December 1988... in New York. Cape Verdean leaders would not have been unhappy to host the signing in Praia, but they

made no great fuss about the matter, cautious as they are not to interfere too much in the affairs of the big powers.

Back when it was frowned upon to visit the South Africans, Pretoria's leaders found Praia a convenient site for discreet meetings with their U.S. counterparts and Namibian nationalists. Their airline, banned from African skies, had landing rights at Sal Island.

"Even before independence, we had promised Pretoria we would not abrogate that agreement," says Mr Pires. Cape Verdean authorities did not want to be branded as "radicals" by those to whom they looked for economic aid. Also, "considering the uncertain economic situation," the landing rights provided a tangible benefit—at one time about 15 percent of the country's hard-currency earnings.

Now that things are beginning to change in Pretoria, are the Cape Verdean authorities going to use their diplomatic skills to facilitate the dialogue? "It is up to the parties involved to negotiate directly in South Africa itself," says Mr Pires judiciously. However, he adds, "some political gesture ought to be made in response to the steps President de Klerk has taken." But "there is no question of Cape Verde taking the lead in recognizing South Africa."

Direct negotiations between the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels are also in the works, and Praia has been mentioned as a possible site. There are also rumors about direct talks between Mozambican authorities and the "bandits" of Renamo: "We would be honored to be asked for our help, but we are not involved in that peace process," says Mr Pires. Then there is the apparently interminable conflict between Mauritania and Senegal, two of Cape Verde's neighbors. "We are in touch with both sides" was the only comment the prime minister would make on the subject.

The Cape Verdeans have not expended all this energy in vain. They have been rewarded for their good offices. "We are really acting in our own interest," admits Mr Pires. In order to survive, this resource-poor country which was once a province of Portugal has had to market the discreet charms of its diplomacy.

## Guinea-Bissau

### Agreement Reached With Senegal Over Border

LD2305221690 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese  
2100 GMT 23 May 90

[Text] Guinea-Bissau and Senegal reached an agreement in Paris today ending the border clashes which over the last five days has resulted in the deaths of 15 Senegalese and two Guinea-Bissau soldiers.

The agreement was reached after talks between Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy and Guinea-Bissau Economy Minister Manuel Santos in the French

capital. Both sides agreed to withdraw their respective troops to a reasonable distance from the border and to continue talks next week at a venue to be chosen by a joint ministerial committee.

The clashes began last Saturday near Sao Domingos in Guinea-Bissau following an incursion by Senegalese troops. Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony, has for many years disagreed with Senegal over maritime borders in a oil rich region. Senegal, a former French colony, agreed to strengthen ties of friendship, solidarity, and fraternity between the two countries, the joint communique distributed by the Senegalese news agency said.

### Ivory Coast

#### President Postpones Meetings With Unions

AB2405115790 Abidjan Domestic Service in French  
0700 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The president of the Republic, on Tuesday 22 May, met with a customs workers' union delegation and a post and telecommunications workers' union delegation. In light of his tight schedule, he asked the representatives of these unions to inform their colleagues that the meetings he planned to have with them yesterday are now postponed to Wednesday, 30 May. Therefore, the head of state will, next Wednesday, receive customs officers at 1100 GMT, and post and telecommunications officials at 1700 GMT. Here are the various appeals made by the leaders of these unions to their members, beginning with that of Lieutenant Justin Yao Kouame, secretary general of the Ivory Coast National Union of Customs Agents:

[Begin Kouame recording] Fellow customs workers, on Monday, 21 May 1990, the Executive Bureau of the Ivory Coast National Union of Customs Agents submitted a motion launching a 48-hour strike beginning Friday, 25 May, to Saturday, 26 May, inclusive. I wish to inform you that this Wednesday, 23 May, the Executive Bureau and the Advisory Board were received by his excellency the president of the Republic at 1725 GMT. At the end of this meeting, and at the request of the president of the Republic, a second meeting will take place on Wednesday, 30 May, at 1100 GMT, at his private residence in Cocody. Consequently, the Executive Bureau requests all fellow customs agents to temporarily suspend all strike action. Thank you. [end recording]

Here now is the statement of Mr. Bertin Kouadio Hounhouet, secretary general of Ivory Coast National Union of Post and Telecommunications Agents [SYNAPOSTEL-CI]:

[Begin Hounhouet recording] Fellow workers of the Ivory Coast Post and Telecommunications, on Wednesday, 23 May, at 1745 GMT, the SYNAPOSTEL-CI was received by the president of the Republic at his

private residence in Cocody. Considering his particularly tight schedule, discussions were postponed to Wednesday, 30 May, at 1730 GMT. Therefore, we request all fellow workers of the Post and Telecommunications of our country to stay calm. Thank you. [end recording]

It should also be added that the president of the Republic will keep the audience he fixed for the delegation of the prison guards on Wednesday, 30 May, at 1830 GMT.

#### \* Bedie Evokes Possibility of Multiparty System

90AF00994 Paris LE MONDE in French  
27 Apr 90 p 10

[Text] The president of the National Assembly, Mr Henri Konan Bedie, said on Wednesday 25 April in Abidjan that a multiparty system could become part of Ivory Coast's political landscape. Bedie, who under the Constitution would succeed President Felix Houphouet-Boigny should the latter step down, is the first Ivorian leader to mention the possibility.

"If the multiparty system is understood as a political system for the benefit of everyone... then it should be possible to work patriotically and intelligently to make it part of the Ivorian political landscape in a democratic way, taking advantage of the guarantees in our constitution and the internal rules of the National Assembly," he said at the opening of the assembly's first session.

### Liberia

#### Government Forces Recapture Port of Buchanan

AB2405203690 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English  
2000 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] The Information Ministry disclosed this evening that government forces are in full control of Grand Bassa County. A release from the ministry said the forces, led by General Charles Julue have recaptured the port of Buchanan in a later attack.

Yesterday at its regular press briefing, the Ministry of Information announced that government forces were gradually making attempts to recapture the port, indicating that the extra care was being taken to ensure that innocent lives were not lost. The leader of the rebels, Moses Duopoue, is reportedly in hiding, and he is being vigorously pursued.

When contacted, President Doe, who is commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, confirmed reports of the successes made by the government troops in Grand Bassa County. The president said that the victory of the Liberian soldiers is a clear indication that the Armed Forces is on its way to wiping out the remaining of the rebels in Liberia.

**350 Rebels Killed in Gbarnga**

AB2505084090 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English  
0709 GMT 25 May 90

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Information yesterday disclosed that government forces are in full control of Grand Bassa County. A release from the ministry said the forces, led by General Charles Julue, have recaptured the Port of Buchanan in a later attack. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, news just in says the Ministry of Information has further announced that government troops in Gbarnga city have killed more than 350 rebels who were trying to bypass Gbarnga city to proceed to Monrovia. According to a release issued by the Information Ministry last evening, the troops, under the command of Colonel Thomas Doeway, are now clearing roads blocked by rebels between Ganta and Grand Gedeh County.

**Senegal****Diouf Telephones Guinea-Bissau's Vieira**

AB2305162290 Paris AFP in French 1347 GMT  
23 May 90

[Text] Dakar, 23 May (AFP)—President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, currently on an official visit to France, held a telephone conversation this morning with President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The tone of this conversation was "very calm," according to Senegalese Communications Minister Moustapha Ka.

A few moments earlier, the Senegalese president had stated to foreign reporters accredited to Dakar that "President Vieira wants peace, I want peace, and the best solution, therefore, is to end the conflict."

The dispute between the two countries started a few weeks ago when Guinea-Bissau accused Senegal of repeated violations of its territorial and air spaces. On 19 May, the Armed Forces of the two countries exchanged fire and heavy artillery bombardment. This incident was repeated yesterday, but there was no exact report on casualties.

Yesterday several Senegalese border villages were evacuated and the Senegalese foreign minister left Dakar last night to meet with his Guinea-Bissau counterpart in Paris.

Three Senegalese are reported dead following the 19 and 22 May exchanges of fire, but it was impossible today to establish the number of casualties in either country.

**Possible Meeting With Vieira**

LD2505083190 Paris International Service in French  
0630 GMT 24 May 90

[Thierry Perret report from Dakar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In an interview granted us on Tuesday, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf envisaged the possibility of a meeting with President Vieira, perhaps at the French-African summit in La Baule. On the same occasion, he made a revelation on the events which have taken place in recent weeks in the region of Casamance.

It may be recalled that an attack took place in the town of Ziquinchor on Saturday evening causing two deaths. The Senegalese president does not believe that all these attacks are the acts of Casamance separatists. We are almost certain that these are outside influences on what is currently happening. Abdou Diouf told us, implying that it could be Mauritania. On the subject of relations with Nouakchott, Abdou Diouf stated, however, that he was ready to meet the Mauritanian president anywhere, at any time without any preconditions.

**Communiqué on Resolution of Border Conflict**

AB2405155590 Dakar Domestic Service in French  
2200 GMT 23 May 90

[Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Culture and Communication following the meeting between Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy and Colonel Manuel Santos, the Guinea-Bissau economy and finance minister]

[Text] Concerned about the situation created by incidents along their borders, General Joao Bernardo Vieira, chairman of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau, and His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, aware of the ties of blood, friendship, and brotherhood between their two countries, and demonstrating their constant willingness to find peaceful solutions to all the problems between the two countries through dialogue, have decided that their two foreign ministers should meet as soon as possible to examine practical measures to be proposed to them in order to restore peace.

In this regard, President Joao Bernardo Vieira, currently on an official visit to France, in the absence of the foreign minister, appointed His Excellency Colonel Manuel Santos, minister of economy and finance, as member of his delegation to meet in Paris today His Excellency Seydina Oumar Sy, the Senegalese foreign minister. The two sides decided to adopt the following measures:

1. To put an end to the development of the present situation.
2. To withdraw the two countries' troops to a reasonable distance from the borders.
3. To organize a meeting between the ministers of the two countries at a place to be determined between Mpak and Sao Domingos at the beginning of next week.
4. To create a specific joint commission to follow the examination of this issue.
5. To maintain frequent contacts between ministers of the two countries.

The Guinea-Bissau and Senegalese delegations took the opportunity to sincerely thank the French Government for providing all the arrangements that made this meeting successful.

### **Diouf Ready To Meet Mauritanian Counterpart**

*AB2405173190 Dakar Domestic Service in French  
2200 GMT 23 May 90*

[Text] President Abdou Diouf today told the foreign press in Dakar that he was ready to meet anywhere, at any time, and without any preconditions his Mauritanian counterpart, Colonel Maauoya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, to diffuse the tension between Senegal and Mauritania. For Abdou Diouf, such a meeting is the best solution to the one-year conflict between the two countries.

He also explained that the problem of border claims is not a precondition for Senegal, although it must be on the agenda for the negotiations.

Furthermore, President Abdou Diouf expressed great concern about reports on plans to set up an Iraqi missile base in Mauritania. He said this is a direct threat to Senegal. Finally, the president of the Republic said he expressed his regrets that although Senegal accepted the peace proposals made by the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, they were rejected by Mauritania.

### **Sierra Leone**

#### **Teachers Strike Triggers Student Demonstration**

*AB2405173990 London BBC World Service in English  
1615 GMT 24 May 90*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Teachers in Sierra Leone are in an uproar. They are on strike and pretty angry about a whole range of issues from pay arrears and even their own union. They tried to hold a big meeting in Freetown and ran into trouble but the teachers were undeterred, as Fodj Fofana reports in this telex from Freetown.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The police this morning dispersed angry teachers who had met at the parade ground in Freetown. The crowd of over 1,000 teachers then moved to the Circular Road Cemetery in the center of town where they continued their meeting undisturbed. A teachers spokesman told me, and I quote: We have chosen to come to the cemetery so that if they want to shoot us dead they can bury us here as well.

In a resolution sent to the secretary general of the Sierra Leone Labor Congress, the teachers demanded the disbanding of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union and the dismissal of its secretary general, the nominated member of parliament, (Emmanuel Fatoma), whom they accused of looking after his own interests rather than those of the teachers. The teachers, who have decided to go on strike until their demands are met, called on the government to sell them rice at a special price. They also demanded that

the government launch a low-cost housing scheme to assist teachers with housing problems and they want prompt payment of their salaries.

Teachers in Freetown have not been paid for between three and four months. In other provincial centers, teachers have gone for up to six months without pay. At the end of the day's meeting some of the teachers rushed to the Albert Academy Secondary School in Berrystreet to disrupt GCE O-Level [General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level] examinations that were going on there at the time, but the students resisted the mob of teachers, chasing them away and detaining one of their number. Other teachers left for other centers of education to try and ensure that examinations did not take place.

Hundreds of students from various schools later took to the streets chanting slogans and pelting the police with stones. When I drove down Circular Road, the students had smashed bottles all along the street forcing vehicles to divert from their course. They also mounted road blocks with old vehicles and stones. At the time of writing, unconfirmed reports said the police had fired teargas in the east end of Freetown to disperse demonstrators. Security is being tightened up to angry citizens from joining the students and resorting to looting. Traders at a nearby market had hurriedly packed up their wares and fled. [end recording]

#### **Government Press Release Issued**

*AB2405222090 Freetown Domestic Service in English  
2000 GMT 24 May 90*

[Special government press release issued in Freetown on 24 May 1990 following the teachers demonstration]

[Text] It has come to the notice of the government that some members of the Sierra Leone Teachers' Union have been holding meetings with the resolution to dismantle the executive of the union in spite of advice from the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Sports and other Government authorities to follow the laid-down procedure for effecting changes in their union.

Today, Thursday, 24th May, it was reported that some members of the union, at one of their meetings, chose to enter Albert Academy with the intent to disrupt the school certificate GCE [General Certificate of Education] O- and A-level examinations that were being held, but were forcefully repelled by the students.

In this connection, the government highly commends the principal, staff, and students of the Albert Academy for their bold and courageous action. While life is normal in Freetown, the government condemns this unprecedented hooligan behavior of these teachers and will like to make it abundantly clear that those responsible will face the full consequences of the law.

Meanwhile, steps have been taken by the police to ensure that adequate security measures are provided at all examination centers.

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